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THE IRREPRESSIBLE QUESTION.

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That the Governor, according to Mr. Cardwell's despatch, is not authorized to pay, out of the Crown revenue, any but the two important functionaries mentioned, there is not the slightest doubt. No member of the House could make that document read o'er his wife; and we are, therefore, not surprised that His Excellency has refused to take the responsibility, according to the resolution of the Assembly, of paying the remainder of the Civil List out of the proceeds of the Crown lands. Those o'clocks—the Chief Justice, Treasurer, &c.—Mr. Cardwell's despatch distinctly states were to be left in the hands of the Legislature, to be made "in any way and from any source which might seem most appropriate to them." That Mr. Cardwell, or at least his subordinates in the Colonial office, do not understand the question is, we think, evident; and perhaps some portion of their ignorance may be attributed to the phraseology of the famous resolutions of February. One thing, however, is certain, the House cannot go back on the action it has already taken. The Colonial revenue cannot be appropriated for paying any portion of the Civil List, unless the Crown Lands are given to the Colony. The Lake of Newcastle's offer last year to make over these lands with their proceeds to the people, with the stipulation that the Colony should provide for an increased Civil List, was not accepted, and therefore the matter rests as before—the Crown being responsible for the Civil List. It is not our purpose to go into the question of what should in the abstract constitute the Crown's responsibility in a Colony under an irresponsible Government—whether the Attorney General, Treasurer, &c., are officials for our own special benefit, or for that of the Crown—the question as it presents itself, is whether the House should stultify its former action, and implicate the colony in a vote on the Civil List, when the other part of the bargain—possession of the Crown lands—is still in the hands of Her Majesty's Government. We are not by any means justifying the House in their refusal of those lands even on the grounds of an increased Civil List; but we cannot see, under the circumstances, how it is possible the House should be obliged to pay a portion of that Civil List towards which they have never paid a farthing before, without any equivalent whatever. If Mr. Cardwell desires that retrenchment should be made in this part of the Government service, by dispensing with a few of the officers, he is taking the proper course to effect that object, and make the Crown lands a bargain that should not be despised. One or two of the officers, we believe, might advantageously be given up. If, on the other hand, it is, as we presume, a mistake of the Colonial office, we feel convinced it will be immediately rectified, by His Excellency placing the matter before Mr. Cardwell. The officials will only have to "wait a little longer" for their salaries—that is all.

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